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The  
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

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REPORT BY THE COUNCIL  
AND  
ACCOUNTS

*For the Year ended 31st December, 1964*

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**Council (to 31st March, 1965)**

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N. G. MATTHEW, F.R.A.S., F.R.S.E., 126 West Savile Terrace, Edinburgh, 9

**Treasurer**

J. GIBSON KERR, C.B.E., W.S., F.R.A.S., F.R.S.E., 51 Castle Street, Edin., 2

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D. R. LAIDLAW, Esq.,

C. G. R. WOOD, Esq.

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**Observatory**

*Director*—N. G. MATTHEW, F.R.A.S., F.R.S.E.

*Assistants*: B. O'NEILL, Esq., J. A. HUNTER, B.SC., PH.D., A.R.I.C.

**Instrument Section:** *Director*—J. BLAIK, Esq.

**Lunar Section:** *Director*—Director of Observatory

**Photographic Section:** *Director*—J. R. LIDDELL, F.R.A.S.

**Planetary Section:** *Director*—B. O'NEILL, Esq.

**Transit and Time Section:** *Director*—J. H. WATT, Esq.

**Variable Star Section:** *Director*—J. SHEPHERD, Esq.

**Librarian:** R. C. M. THOMSON, F.R.A.S.

**Curator of Slides:** D. R. LAIDLAW, Esq.

# ANNUAL REPORT

The Council have pleasure in presenting a brief Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st December 1964.

**Membership.** There has been a slight increase in membership during the year.

**Finance.** A Statement of Accounts for the year is appended.

**Observatory.** The Observatory has been an active centre throughout the year. A number of courses in astronomy were held, at different levels, and some of these were run in conjunction with the University and Edinburgh Corporation. Perhaps the most important event of the year was the week-end Course in Practical Astronomy, reported below.

Parties of adults and senior schoolchildren, some from England and abroad, have visited the Observatory and most have been shown the brighter celestial objects through one of the telescopes. The number of visitors, who spend one to two hours at the Observatory, was over 3500, a little less than last year.

Telescopes were in use on 112 nights. The Observing Sections and members of the Fellowship of Junior Astronomers have recorded various series of observations. The Variable Star Section has, as usual, produced light curves of variables. The Photographic Section has been mainly concerned with star fields, but some lunar photography has also been done. The Transit Section has continued observations and the striding level has been improved. The Planetary Section has made observations of Saturn and Jupiter and has begun observation of Mars as it approaches opposition. Experimental work in simple radio-astronomy has been carried out by Mr D. Richardson, and a Photoelectric Section has been formed. Equipment is now being built by members of the Section.

Instruments have been maintained and repaired by Mr C. G. R. Wood, who has also transformed the original transit telescope of the Observatory (c 1815) by careful cleaning, polishing and repair. The actuation of the seconds timing from the Sidereal Clock has been altered and improved by Mr Wood.

Part of the Workshop Building and the kitchen of the Main Building have been redecorated, and some other paintwork has been retouched. It became necessary to renew the electrical wiring in the Crawford Dome during the year. The Town carried out some small repairs to the outside of the buildings, including the renewal of some rainwater pipes on the Lecture Hall.

**Lectures.** At the formal meetings of the Society the following lectures were delivered :

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| "Old and New Views of the Galaxy"             | H. A. Brück, D.Phil., Ph.D.,<br>Astronomer Royal for Scotland |
| "Photoelectric Methods in Astronomy"          | M. J. Smyth, M.A., Ph.D.                                      |
| "Photography in Astronomy"                    | E. W. H. Selwyn.  |
| "Life in the Universe"                        | M. W. Ovenden,<br>B.Sc., M.A., Ph.D.                          |
| "Symposium on Ranger VII"                     | D. C. Heggie, N. G. Matthew,<br>R. C. M. Thomson.             |
| "Satellite Tracking :<br>methods and reasons" | B. McInnes, B.Sc., F.B.I.S.                                   |

After the Annual General Meeting the films "A Continuous Solar Movie" (I.G.Y.) and "Australia in the Geophysical Year" were shown. During the summer, as usual, informal meetings were held monthly when members gave papers on various astronomical subjects. There were good attendances at all meetings.

**Week-end Course.** This Course in Practical Astronomy was held from 25th to 27th September, in association with the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust and the British Astronomical Association. The Course consisted of lectures and practical work on three aspects of astronomy, namely Astronomical Computing (tutor, Rev. C. Dinwoodie. Ph.D.), Planetary Observation (tutor, Patrick Moore, F.R.A.S., F.R.S.A.) and Photoelectric Photometry (tutor, M. J. Smyth, M.A., Ph.D.).

The subjects were alternated at succeeding sessions during the week-end to give some variation, and observing was carried out on the Friday and Saturday evenings. Practical work on Computing (including machine computing) took place immediately after explanations and examples. Fifteen information sheets, with examples, were issued to students for Computing, nine on Photoelectric Photometry, and one on Stellar Photography, for some students who took this aspect in place of Computing. The President of the Society was tutor for Stellar Photography.

The number of students had to be limited to twenty-five since it was a practical Course, and there were more applications than could be accepted. Students came from all parts of Scotland.

We were very fortunate in our tutors who made the Course intensely interesting and very successful.

**Publication and Display.** The distribution of the monthly Notes and Star Charts has been continued. Other information has been given to schools and display material loaned. Current information has been displayed near the Register House, Edinburgh.

**Library.** We are pleased to report that the use of the Library is increasing.

**Lantern Slides.** Relatively little use has been made of the slide collection.

**Acknowledgments.** We thank all those who assisted the Society in its work during the year. Grateful acknowledgment is made of the gift of a theodolite by Mr T. R. Adlam, of an electric radiator by Mr B. O'Neill and of the loan of apparatus by the Astronomer Royal for Scotland.

**Obituary.** The Council record with regret the loss by death of Mr F. P. G. Carron who had been a member of the Society for twenty years.

In the name of the Council,

J. R. LIDDELL, President

J. GIBSON KERR }  
N. G. MATTHEW } Secretaries

# The Astronomical Society of Edinburgh

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

For Year to 31st December, 1964

RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
Subscriptions and Donations - £94 12 0	Library - - - - - £28 1 10
Astronomical Society of Edinburgh Trustees—	Lectures - - - - - 31 8 6
Income Payments- - - 132 19 11	Transport - - - - - 15 0 0
Income Tax recovered - - - - -	Observatory, Calton Hill—
Edinburgh Corporation, for	Rates, Cleaning,
Observatory - - - - 500 0 0	Repairs, Heating,
Badges sold - - - - 1 0 0	Lighting, etc. -£238 3 7
728 11 11	Insurance
Practical Week-end Course - 67 10 0	Premiums - - 16 14 2
Loans:	Director (for 1964) 200 0 0
Mr. J. R. Liddell, Prtsident £100	Assistants (for 1964) 75 0 0
Mr. J. Gibson Kerr, Treasurer £100 200 0 0	Treasurer (for 1963) 31 10 0
996 1 11	Audit Fee 7 7 0
	568 14 9
	Honoraria to Joint Secretaries
	(for 1963) - - - - 126 0 0
	Treasurer's Remuneration (for
	1963) - - - - 15 15 0
	Printing, Stationery & Postages 59 2 0
	Audit Fee - - - 7 7 0
	President's Badge - - - 26 4 0
	Miscellaneous - - - - 2 7 9
	£880 0 10
	Practical Week-end Course - 80 12 3
	£960 13 1
	Balance at 31st December, 1964—
	In Bank - -£277 12 3
	In Hands of Treas-
	urer - - - 1 2 9 278 15 0
	(Subject to Loans of
	£200 to be repaid)*
Balance from 1963 - - - 243 6 2	
£1,239 8 1	£1,239 8 1

EDINBURGH, 13th January, 1965 — I have examined the foregoing Abstract of the Accounts of the Treasurer of the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh for the year to 31st December, 1964, and I am of the opinion that it is correctly stated and sufficiently vouched. I have seen the Bankers' Certificate for the Balance in Bank at 31st December, 1964.

R. N. OSWALD, C.A., Auditor.